**Study Guide for Test on the Mongols/China/Japan/Korea Date: Wednesday, March 22nd.**

**TOPIC: THE MONGOLS**

**I. The Mongols (1100s-1400s)**

1. Introduction
2. The Mongol people originated on the steppes (grassy plains) of Central Asia.
3. The Mongols lived in a harsh physical environment and survived as pastoral nomads - They raised animals and migrated frequently in search of grazing lands for their animals.

B. Empire

1. Under the skilled military leadership of Genghis Khan, the Mongols conquered ruthlessly. The Great Khan established the Mongolian Empire which was the LARGEST EMPIRE in all of history.

2. At its height, the Mongol empire included China, Central Asia, Russia, and much of the Middle East (Iran).

C. Marco Polo

1. Marco Polo was an Italian merchant who visited the Mongols in China and remained there for

almost 20 years.

2. After returning to Italy, Marco wrote down extensive information about his experiences in China with the Mongols.

3. **NOTE**: The writings of Marco Polo are important for several reasons:

1. They are valuable primary sources that teach us about China during this period.
2. They increased the desire of Europeans to trade with China to obtain valuable goods.

D. The Mongols are important for several reasons:

1. Trade and travel between Europe and Asia increased TREMENDOUSLY during Mongol rule since the Mongols kept peace and prevented violence along trade routes (like the Silk Road).

1. The Silk Road went from China (Asia) to Rome (Europe).
2. The bubonic plague was spread by traders on the Silk Road during Pax Mongolia.
3. Pax Mongolia brought political stability.

2. Influence on Russia

1. After they conquered Russia, the Mongols (the Golden Horde) kept Russia isolated (removed) from developments that were taking place in Western Europe.
2. The Mongols taught the Russians how to have a centralized government- A strong government with one ruler in firm control.
3. The Mongols were the first foreign group to completely conquer China and they made use of Chinese institutions in governing China.

**TOPIC: GOLDEN AGE OF CHINA (THE TANG AND SONG DYNASTIES)**

1. **Ethnocentrism-Chinese belief that they were the center of the world.**
2. **The Sui, Tang and Song Dynasties (580s-1200s)**
3. The Sui-built the Grand Canal, practiced Buddhism, dynasty did not last very long
4. The Golden Age of China took place during the Tang and Song Dynasties. Like all Golden Ages, this was a period of tremendous achievements in the arts, science, math, and literature.
5. Key achievements of the Tang and Song Dynasties:
6. The Tang invented gunpowder (later adopted by civilizations in Europe and the Middle East).
7. The (Tang invented block printing (a method of printing in which ink is placed on carved wooden blocks that are pressed onto paper).
8. The Tang created works of art using porcelain (beautiful clay).

D. Other key facts about the Tang and Song Dynasties:

1. The Song blended different belief systems to come up with Neo-Confucianism.
2. Cultural Diffusion- Buddhism became popular in China during this period as the ideas of this religion entered China due to trade using the Silk Road.
3. The Chinese continued to use civil service exams to select highly qualified people to work in their government.
4. Technological advances during the Tang and Song resulted in a promotion of economic growth and cultural advancement.
5. The Song Dynasty ended when they were destroyed by the Mongols.

**TOPIC: THE TRAVELERS OF GLOBAL I**

1. **Marco Polo, Ibn Battuta and Zheng He (do not study Zheng He for this test)**
   1. The Regents likes to ask questions about 3 men who each traveled thousands of miles. They are: 1. Marco Polo- Italian merchant who traveled to China (over the Silk Road) when it was ruled by the Mongols.

2. Ibn Battuta- Arab/Muslim explorer who traveled a total of 75,000 miles and visited lands in Africa, Asia, and Europe.

3. Zheng He- Chinese explorer of the Ming Dynasty who sailed the Indian and Pacific Oceans to lands that included Southeast Asia, India, the western coast of Africa. (**We have not studied Zheng He yet)**

B**. NOTE**: These three individuals are important for several reasons:

1.They wrote extensively about their travels. These writings are valuable primary sources that teach us about lands that they visited.

2. The contacts they made with other lands helped stimulate (increase) trade between different regions of the world and promote exploration.

**TOPIC: EARLY JAPANESE HISTORY**

**I. Geography**

1. Japan is located in East Asia and is considered to be an archipelago- A country that consists of a group of islands (Japan is made up of 4 main islands) ---Japan is able to resist invasion due to its island location
2. Japan is made up mostly of mountains, which has made farming difficult.
3. Terrace Farming- In order to farm in the mountains, the Japanese had to dig and carve flat areas (called terraces) into the sides of mountains.
4. Areas we have studied which are also mountainous: Greece, Korea, Indonesia

**II. Religion**

1. Shinto is the religion of Japan. It is a religion (similar to Animism in Africa or Daoism in China) that believe all living and nonliving things in nature have a spirit.
2. Practice the 4 Affirmations which emphasize cleanliness and nature.

**III. Influence of China on Japan ---Due to their close locations, Japan borrowed much from the Chinese**

1. Cultural Diffusion- Early Japan was GREATLY influenced by contact with the neighboring Asian civilization of China. Through contact with China, Japan received many important things:
2. Writing- Japan’s first form of writing was influenced by Chinese writing.
3. Buddhism- The Japanese learned about the Buddhist religion from the Chinese.

B. Only dynasty to rule Japan --Yamato Dynasty

**IV. Japanese Feudalism**

1. Similar to Europe during the Middle Ages, Japan developed a system of feudalism early in its history.

Feudalism was a political system of land exchange for protection and loyalty.

The feudal system worked like this:

1. Emperor and Shogun (military general)- They were the rulers of Japan.
2. Daimyo- They were the wealthy nobles who were given land by the emperor and Shogun in return for loyalty and military service.
3. Samurai- They were the warriors of Japanese society. They pledged loyalty to the Daimyo and had to fight when necessary. The samurai had a code of behavior called Bushido (which required the samurai to be loyal to the Daimyo and to fight bravely in battle).

B. **NOTE**: Japanese feudalism was very similar to European feudalism:

1. Japanese samurai and European knights both followed a code of behavior. Bushido was the code of the Samurai and Chivalry was the code of the knights. Both codes emphasized loyalty and bravery.
2. Japanese and European Feudalism were both decentralized, which means that power was given to many different local leaders instead of being concentrated in the hands of a single ruler.
   1. The Knight (Europe), the Samurai (Japan), and the Warlord (China) all held power in the feudal system
   2. Because people in each society had a clear role to follow, feudalism brought structure, order, and stability (calmness) to society.
3. **Korea**
4. Due to its close location, was greatly influenced by China
5. Served as a cultural / land bridge between China and Japan